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# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## CHECK PRESENTATION AT BIG EDDY

Date: 9/9/05 – Representatives of USDA Rural Development as well as Congressional staff met at the Big Eddy today to present a check in the amount of \$58,000 to Mayor Joe Pippenger of Orofino. The funds are for a feasibility study of the Dworshak Reservoir. City leaders hope the study will show that a houseboat marina and rental facility can provide economic benefits to the City of Orofino, and Clearwater County as a whole.

"For the past 15 years the seasonal drawdowns in Dworshak Reservoir, have created a negative impact to the general economy of the area. "This year alone the usage on Labor Day was 80% less than the usage on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July," said Mayor Pippenger. "This study will determine the potential to provide a positive impact during the active tourist season. Having the marina could bring increased tourism by working in conjunction with the drawdowns and providing greater access to the recreational use of the reservoir."

The study will determine if a marina can operate under ongoing drawdown conditions. It will also determine the size and structure of such a marina, and the most appropriate location on the reservoir to locate such a facility. There is the possibility of creating over 35 new jobs as well as helping local business prosper.

USDA Rural Development would like to thank Idaho's Congressional Delegation for their assistance with getting the funding this close to the end of the fiscal year.

"Three years ago I committed to work with Clearwater County and our State and Federal partners to implement projects to strengthen the local economy and help offset the impacts of the drawdowns at Dworshak," said Senator Mike Crapo, Chairman of the Senate subcommittee on rural revitalization issues. "This is a major step forward in that collaboration. I applaud the leadership of USDA Rural Development for providing this funding to study the feasibility of expanding marina facilities on the reservoir."



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